

Polk County Observer

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The way to build up Dallas is to pave the streets.

PAVING MEANS PROGRESS.

The argument advanced by some of the opponents of paving that the installation of the improvement here would prove a heavy drain on the property owners and possibly result in financial embarrassment and business stagnation and failures, is as foolish as it is improbable. The fact that practically every business man in the city is in favor of paving and has expressed a willingness to pay increased rentals in the event that the improvement shall be installed, is sufficient argument to refute the allegation. The plea that the cost of pavement would embarrass the property owners and practically amount to "confiscation of property" is a confession of weakness that comes with poor grace at this time. According to the Clark-Henry bill, which the council has accepted, the pavement for a 60-foot lot on Main street will cost \$268 and for the same sized lot on Mill or Court streets it will cost \$280. Under the 10-year payment plan the property owner of a 60-foot lot on Main street would therefore be required to pay \$26.80 annually, and on Court or Mill streets, \$28 annually. To say that the payment of this sum would "embarrass" any holder of real estate on these streets in the proposed paving district is so foolish that further comment is unnecessary.

Forest Grove is one of the best paved of the smaller cities of the Willamette valley. The entire business district is thus improved and the city is in a flourishing condition. Every business house is occupied and more new ones are being erected. The people are so well pleased with the improvement that this year 24 blocks in the residence district will be paved, and this will be done at the urgent request of the property owners and not a single protest has been entered against it. This doesn't look like the "confiscation of property." The people of Forest Grove declare that their city has improved in population and wealth with much greater rapidity since the adoption of hard surface pavement than ever before. They are satisfied, and the croakers who exerted every effort in the first place to resist the plan, have either become enthusiastic converts to the idea or their weak squeaks of protest have been lost in the hum of the wheels of progress.

McMinnville is one of the progressive towns of the valley. It is larger than Dallas and growing more rapidly. Some fine new business buildings have been erected and more are under way. Splendid new residences on the paved streets are the rule while others will be built during the coming summer. The people of McMinnville are not fighting hard-surface streets, although the croakers succeeded in retarding the advancement of the city for many years.

Independence is satisfied with her hard surface street work and more will be done this year. Independence is smaller than Dallas, but it is a lively burg and a general air of prosperity is noticeable. So it is every where. Dallas is the only community of any importance in the valley that has not adopted the paving idea and she is lagging behind in the procession. This is a plain statement, but it is a fact, nevertheless. And it is also a fact that the men who have stood behind every public improvement and every enterprise for the good of the whole people, are supporters of the paving plans. Many of those who oppose at this time, are probably honest in their belief, and are basing their objection on the best of motives, but they are simply mistaken—that's all.

Opponents of paving have urged many reasons why the work should not be done at this time. These were set forth at length in The Observer of Tuesday, and every one of the subterfuges used to oppose the idea were shown in their true light, and left the objectors no foundation on which to base their opposition. The principal argument was that the city had not the money to pay for the street intersections, yet it was shown that there is plenty of funds on hand for this work. The objectors told us that the city could not stand the cost of lowering or changing the water mains, but we find that this work will be done at the expense of the water company. They say that storm water sewers are necessary, yet the fact remains that the present sewers have proved sufficient for all purposes

since their installation. Therefore, the objectors must come out in their true colors and say to the people that they simply don't want the hard surface. That they are content to wade in the mud in winter, and breathe the dust in summer; that they are willing to pay the useless and never-ending expense of keeping the dirt streets half way passable; that they are satisfied that Dallas shall advertise herself as the least progressive city in the whole Willamette valley, simply because the proposed improvement is going to cost a little money. It remains to be seen whether this effort to block the wheels of progress shall succeed.

MEET THE PROBLEM OF MAILS.

If congress will add to the duties of the postoffice department it must furnish the equipment requisite for the new tasks imposed. There is no sense or justice in visiting upon postal employees condemnation that belongs higher up, declares the Christian Science Monitor. Rural delivery, postal savings banks, and the parcels post are admirable new features of the national postal system, too long delayed, and still far from adequately appreciated or used. But to carry them on with a staff of workers not correspondingly increased makes inevitable intimations such as now find public expression concerning tardy handling of first and second-class mail matter. If, as it is charged, the department of late has been scamped in the congressional appropriations, then it is not surprising that some defects should appear, but we feel that they are surprisingly few, when we remember the enormous number of pieces handled and the vast territory over which distribution must take place. Criticism based on European contrasts overlooks fundamentally different geographical conditions.

Apparently there must be further readjustment, perhaps a considerable amplification of force and facilities, before the postal service of the country will be in a position to handle the largely increased mass of matter without delays here and there. To an outsider it might seem that the pressure of parcel post matter was acting in a way to prevent prompt handling of the second-class mail, if not occasionally the first-class matter. Something seems to be needed, somewhere, to keep all kinds of matter always in motion from the beginning of a journey to the very end. Perhaps train service should be amplified; perhaps there should be more clerks; very probably there should be in many instances more room for matter that means new bulk. But we believe that both the postoffice authorities and the great army of employees are alike working to effect the needed improvements, and meanwhile we feel that in the trying times that have accompanied the introduction of a new and uncertain factor in the postal service great credit is due the department and its hard-working employees that the congestion at important centers has not been allowed to cause any serious inconvenience to general business. We believe the average postoffice employee, whatever his position, has some pride in keeping his particular part of the service on time, and doubtless this professional pride of individual men lifts the department over many a difficult place in time of stress.

It is said that a movement is on foot to cut the word "applause" out of the record of speeches that appear in the Congressional Record. This will hardly be successful, as about the only applause some of the congressional speech-makers receive is when the clerk enters it in the journal.

It is said that the Southern Pacific company has under contemplation the removal of its shops from Portland and the concentration of all its repair and building work at some point in Oregon on its lines. What's the matter with Dallas? Or is this city merely on the P. E. & E. railway?

POLK COUNTY NEWS

(Continued from Page One.)

Rebeks banquet Saturday night. Justin Hunter transacted business in Salem Saturday.

Mr. and Mrs. Privitt of Newport, were the guests of Mr. and Mrs. C. T. West over Sunday.

At the gold medal contest held in the M. E. church Monday night Jessie Griffin was victorious. G. W. Buntner presented the medal. Special music and readings added to the program.

Miss Sadie Bonghey of Salem, attended the Brown-Seymour nuptials Sunday.

H. H. Parsons of Dallas, visited Falls City friends Sunday.

The Odd Fellows and Rebekahs of Falls City celebrated the anniversary of Oddfellowship with a banquet in the Tice building. Several visitors were present from Salem and Black Rock.

Miss Hammond was a passenger to Salem Saturday.

A May-day banquet got up and served by the men of the Methodist church in honor of the ladies of the church was given Thursday evening in the parlors of the church. Who says that the men can't cook?

OAK DALE

Miss Alfreda Garner, of Dallas, spent the week end with Gertrude and Beth Wilson.

Joe Dennis fell from a tree on the school grounds last Wednesday and shook himself up considerably. He

was swinging from tree to tree when the top broke and he fell nearly 20 feet rendering him unconscious for a short time. No bones were broken however and he was able to be in school in a few days, but it will be some time before he tries any pranks like that again.

Will Shewey has moved his family to Dixie where he will run a hop yard.

Mr. Wulf, the Dallas shoemaker, visited J. S. Macomber last week. They were boys together in Minnesota and had a most enjoyable visit talking over old times.

C. J. Bewley and Mr. Wells visited Monmouth Monday.

C. A. Bruce is laid up with lumbago.

William Hamilton is running the Cement company's hop yard.

Mrs. Clarence Sellers and Mrs. Chas. Hubbard visited the families of Sam Tetherow and William Ford at Falls City last week.

Harold Bird celebrated his third birthday Sunday with a birthday dinner. Mr. and Mrs. Thos. Card and Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Robinson were the guests.

Mrs. Alvin Kimball, of Rocco, has been visiting at Clarence Sellers and Ben Thompson's.

Ben Thompson and Ed Cochran and others are building a road up the La-Creole to timber claims there. They are in the employment of W. V. Fuller, of Dallas.

RICKREAL

Mrs. W. R. Black and daughter, Helen, went to Portland Monday to visit her daughter, Mrs. Jones, a few days.

J. J. Burch doesn't seem to improve.

A man was here Tuesday looking for a location for a barber shop. We didn't learn what success he met with.

Mrs. Schneller, of Sherwood, was here to see her father this week.

D. T. Hodge sold his fine cow to Mr. Sherwood for a hundred dollars.

Mrs. B. F. Lucas was in Albany last week.

Mrs. Robert Ankeny was in Portland the first of the week.

Robt. Ankeny is the owner of a fine new motorcycle.

H. C. Fox was in Dallas Monday on business.

Mrs. Washburn of Springfield, is spending a few days with her mother, Mrs. W. E. Clark.

The late heavy frosts have killed the first buds of the walnut trees and everybody is afraid the fruit is hurt to a great extent.

In reading an item in several papers stating there was only eight survivors of the Indian war veterans, it failed to mention our esteemed veterans from here, two brothers, S. T. and J. J. Burch, old pioneers of Oregon also.

SMITHFIELD

Everybody is getting short on hay this spring.

Jacob Neufeldt is working for A. R. Brown.

Cornelius Wiebe and family have moved from the Geo. Myer farm to the Peter's farm.

Mary and Anna Friesen are training hops in Salt Creek.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Toews were visitors at J. F. Kliever's Sunday.

Peter Neufeldt, Jr., is helping Peter Reddecon put in his crop.

Gerhard Diehm has given their house the second coat of paint.

A crowd of young folks had a good time at Diehm's Sunday. Among them were Norma, Elsie and Perry Smith, Anna and Robert Baxter, Herman and Menno Wiebe, Irvin McNulty, Justina Neufeldt and Sylvester Tilgner.

Mr. White, Jr., son of Mr. White, of Salem, was here in his auto, looking after his father's farm. He had four Russian newcomers with him. They are from Canada, looking after land.

Smithfield has a "dandy" new depot.

PERRYDALE

Mr. and Mrs. Lee Conner were Dallas visitors Sunday.

H. J. Elliott was a business caller in Dallas Monday.

Mrs. Clarence White, of Portland, is visiting a few days at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. Jones.

Mrs. Wm. Engle and daughter, Lilian, who have been visiting at the home of John Dingman for several weeks, left Sunday for their home in Winnipeg, Canada. Mr. and Mrs. Dingman accompanied them to Dallas Sunday morning.

Alfred Enes will leave Wednesday for Coquille, Oregon, where he expects to work this summer.

Mrs. J. Schaub, the national lecturer and organizer of the W. C. T. U., will lecture in the Christian church here Friday evening, May 2. Everyone invited to attend.

Nellie Key was a McMinnville caller Saturday.

The ladies of the Christian church will hold a chicken pie supper on the evening of May 9th. A play entitled "A Day on the Campus," as well as other musical selections will be rendered. Everybody come. You can't afford to miss it. Admission 15c and 25c.

BALLSTON

A. B. Gale, a stock buyer for the Union Meat company was through here Sunday.

Louis Bolbert went to Portland

(Continued on Page Three)

SALEM COUPLE ARE MARRIED

Dallas Minister Unites Former Parishioners Here.

Mr. George W. Johnson and Miss Bernice E. Peek, both of Salem, were united in marriage at the Dallas Methodist parsonage by Rev. D. Lester Fields at 10:30 a. m., April 30, 1913.

Mr. Johnson is an employee in the Salem postoffice and both are popular young people of South Salem, and are former parishioners of the officiating minister.

After a brief visit to Portland and other places they will be at home to their many friends at 445 Myers street, Salem, Oregon, after May 15.



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LODGE DIRECTORY

UNITED ARTISANS—Dallas Assembly, No. 46, meets on first and third Mondays of each month at Woodman hall. Visiting members made welcome.

MILLIE M. STAFFIN, M. A.
 WILLIS SIMONTON, Secretary.

REBEKAHS—Almira Lodge No. 26 meets first and third Wednesday of each month at Odd Fellows' Hall.

NOLA COAD, Noble Grand.
ORA COSPER, Secretary.

WOODMEN OF THE WORLD—Dallas Camp No. 209 meets in W. O. W. Hall on Tuesday evening of each week.

R. E. REED, Consul Com.
W. A. AYRES, Clerk.

A. F. & A. M.—Jennings Lodge, No. 2, meets second and fourth Fridays of each month, in Masonic hall on Main street. Visiting brethren welcome.

E. A. HAMILTON, W. M.
WALTER S. MUIR, Secretary.

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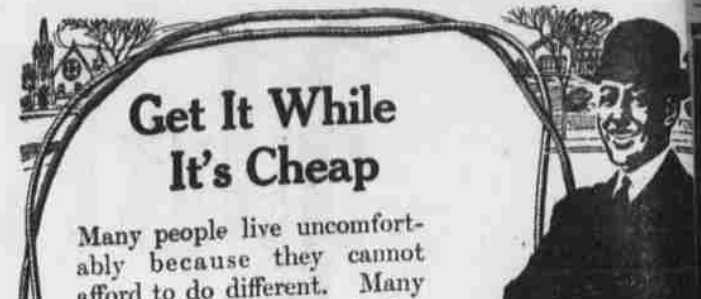
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